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REMARKS

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 2-4, and the weight ratio range form PANI/PAAMPSA:PAM. Support for the weight % ratio range can be found at page 4, lines 1-4. Independent claims 11 and 20 have been amended in an analogous manner. No new matter has been introduced.

Newly presented Claim 28 relates to a composition according to Claim 1 with a PANI/PAAMPS:PSS:PAM weight % ratio range. Support for this can be found in Example 13, at page 14, line 40, to page 15, line 2, and Figure 3. No new matter has been introduced.

Newly presented Claims 29-32 relate to a solution of PANI/PAAMPSA:PSS:PAM which has been subjected to sonication treatment, and a film made from the solution. Support for these claims can be found at page 3, lines 18-22, Example 8, at page 11, lines 30-33, and Figure 4. No new matter has been introduced.

Claims 2-4, 6-10, 12, 16-19, and 25-27 have been canceled. The pending claims are 1, 5, 11, 13-15, 20-24, and 28-31.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

WO 01/41230 and Cao et al.

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 01/41230, and under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Cao et al., US 2002/0098377. These two references are based on the same priority document (U.S. Provisional application No. 60/168,856) and will be addressed together.

The references disclose films of polyaniline ("PANI") and poly(2-acrylamido-2-methyl-1-propanesulfonic acid) ("PAAMPSA") which may further contain a water-soluble host polymer. Examples of water-soluble host polymers include, among others, polyacrylamide ("PAM") and poly(styrenesulfonic acid) ("PSS"). The references further state that combinations of host polymers can be used. However, there is no teaching of specifically combining PAM and PSS with PANI/PAAMSA in specific weight % ratios, as recited in Claim 1, as amended.

Furthermore, the references do not teach or suggest the sonication treatment of newly added Claims 29-32.

Applicant respectfully submits that these objections have been overcome, and requests that they be withdrawn.

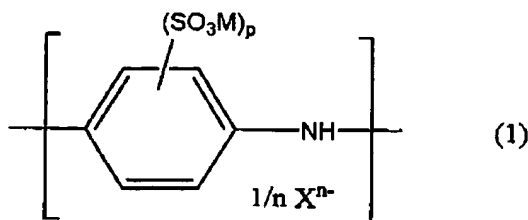
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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0813212 ("EP reference"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The EP reference discloses a *sulfonated* polyaniline, in which the aromatic ring of the aniline is substituted with 0.1-4 SO₃M units. The polyaniline comprises a repeating unit represented by the general formula (1) as an *essential component* (paragraph 42, pages 5-6):



where p is 0.1-4.

Applicant's claimed composition does not include a sulfonated polyaniline. Furthermore, the EP reference does not teach or suggest a PANI/PAAMPSA in combination with PSS and PAM, as recited in the amended claims. Nor does the EP reference teach or suggest a sonication treatment.

Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the above referenced pending application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance for pending Claims 1, 5, 11, 13-15, 20-24, and 28-31 is therefore earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

MARY ANN CAPRIA
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT
Registration No.: 32,659
Telephone: (302) 992-3749
Facsimile: (302) 892-7949

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